

an advocate for increased No Child Left Behind funding. Additionally, he has promoted initiatives to increase the minimum wage and create a system of universal health care.

Congressman SWEENEY is someone whom I had the fortune to know in Albany and deserves recognition for his tireless service to the citizens of New York State. His accomplishments are felt from his northern upstate district down to the five boroughs of New York City. As Vice-Chairman of the Transportation, Treasury, and HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, JOHN has always been a reliable source of support for the state's small business owners and has championed projects facilitating growth and job development. As a Member representing Queens and the Bronx, I am also personally indebted to JOHN for his successful fight to secure over \$21 billion in recovery aid for the people of New York City in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks on our city.

I also wish to highlight the achievements of Representative KELLY, and in particular, her work as a colleague of mine on the House Financial Services Committee. She has made large contributions to significant pieces of legislation such as the Sarbanes-Oxley bill that ensures greater corporate accountability and has led the battle to enforce corporate diligence by heading initial hearings into fraud cases involving Enron and WorldCom. Mrs. KELLY also merits appreciation for her efforts to achieve justice for Holocaust survivors by leading hearings regarding WWII restitution. I wish Representative KELLY well in future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I thank these Members for their distinguished service to this Congress and I wish them the sincerest of luck on their upcoming projects. New York State and this Congress are richer as a result of their contributions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. SEKULA GIBBS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SEKULA GIBBS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I also want to rise to extol the virtues of SHERRY BOEHLERT. I worked very hard on trying to write something out here. It took me a while to get this together. I am not quite as glib as the distinguished other gentleman from New York who spoke earlier, and I had to think long and hard about really good things to say about SHERRY as well. But I would just like to start by saying a few things.

One, he is I think the most affable person in the House of Representatives. There are a lot of us here, but he always did things with goodwill, with a good sense of humor. I am not re-

motely surprised that he didn't make enemies when he spoke or he took opposite positions, because he didn't do that with a vindictiveness, and he usually did it with facts behind what he was saying. So for that he deserves tremendous credit.

He has been an incredible advocate for centrist Republican positions. He and I have worked together on a variety of those issues, going to the highest levels in this House, sometimes to extend funding in certain circumstances, other times to fight legislation which was coming forward, and for that I will be eternally grateful.

He also is an environmentalist extraordinaire. He probably excels in that field as much as anybody in the House of Representatives, Republican or Democrat. He is knowledgeable. He had tremendous staff support. He carried out his convictions on the floor. He articulated the issues well.

I don't know of a single issue involving the environment in which probably 25 or 30 of us did not go to SHERRY and say exactly what do you think about this, and usually we voted the way he was thinking because of his extraordinary knowledge.

Now, I am saying nice things about him, but I should point out some downside. He is a Yankee fan. I don't know how that happens. I think people become Yankee fans because they are winners, and that is the reason he is a Yankee fan instead of a Mets fan or something of that nature. But he is there, and we will have to forgive him that.

He comes from a region of New York State, up around Utica. He lives in New Hartford, New York, which happens to be an area in which I spent 4 years going to Hamilton College. He and I graduated in the same year from different colleges; he, from Utica College, which we realized soon when we came down here together on the floor of the House of Representatives. But he has been my agent, telling me about Hamilton College all these years, and I appreciate that a great deal.

He also dedicated a science building there, as the head of the Science Committee recently, to great acclaim by the people at Hamilton and has a warm spot in his heart for that.

Moves significantly. He has a good part of his family, of his children, have now moved to Rehobeth Beach, Delaware, and he and Marianne are hopefully going to spend more time in the southern part of Delaware, which I consider to be very important. It is a beautiful spot. Everybody here should consider that, as a matter of fact, as part of their future. I hope that SHERRY will come there often and spend time there and we can enjoy his company at that spot.

I can't tell you how fair he has been. If you go to SHERRY with something, he will describe it to you, go back and forth, and, if he is with you, he is going to be on your side and he is the single greatest advocate you can possibly have.

There are many, many other things he has achieved, particularly as head of the Science Committee, dealing with the American Competitiveness Initiative, which he was slightly ahead of the President in terms of that area. In nanotechnology, he was a force in making sure that we have proper regulation in that area. The same thing is true of cybersecurity. He has been concerned about NASA all these years.

He has just done a wonderful job of representing the mid-part of New York State, an exceptional job over all of these years he has been in the Congress of the United States.

But I think far beyond that, for those of us who had a chance to know SHERRY and to work with him, to know his family, to know Marianne, to know what they stand for and how they are, he has the warmest embrace he could possibly have from all of us. He is an exceptional human being. And I am sure, since he is in good health and that he will be in Washington from time to time, that we will hear from him on a variety of issues. And I look forward to that moment, being able to hear from SHERRY as to what he is thinking, as to what is going on, keeping us informed on the outside and keeping us informed on the inside as to what we should be doing in minding our P's and Q's.

To a wonderful Member of the Congress of the United States, to a wonderful individual in the United States, I pay all the acclaim possible to my good friend SHERRY BOEHLERT.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KUH of New York addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING FLORIDA MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to four of our Florida colleagues who will depart at the end of this 109th Congress.

CLAY SHAW, MIKE BILIRAKIS, JIM DAVIS, and KATHERINE HARRIS have all served our great state and our great Nation with passion and with pride. They have all left their own individual mark on this House as an institution, and I know they will be missed by all of our colleagues.